Inter-Connected All India Cellular Services

1135. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken/are being taken towards starting of inter-connected All-India Cellular Services, all over the country,

(b) whether private operators are to be involved by connecting the cellular systems to All India Telecom System; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Cellular Service is at present operational in the four metro cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Cellular networks are connected with the public telephone network of Deptt. of Telecom providing nationawide and international access. Cellular network in Telecom Circles will also be connected to public telephone network as and when they are operational.

(b) No, Sir. The Cellular networks are directly connected to the public telephone network of DoT.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Irrigation Facility in Gujarat

1236. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lagging behind the national average in respect of irrigation facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to increase irrigation facilities in the State with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture upto 1992-93 (latest), the percentage of net irrigated area to total cultivable area in Gujarat was 21.4% as compared to national average of 27.2%.

(c) Steps taken by the Govt. of Gujarat to increase irrigation facilities in the State are as under:—

1. Providing canal lining in old canal systems which are unlined;

2. extension, renovation and modernisation of old canel systems;

3. adoption of sprinkler/drip irrigation method;

4. economical and optimum use of irrigation water;

5. Implementation of various recharge works such as recharge wells, percolation tanks, village tanks, spreading channels and minor schemes as well as check dams;

6. transfer of water for irrigation purpose from surplus area to deficit area through connecting link canals and pond system;

7. tapping surface water resources through medium and minor irrigation schemes.

8. early completion of on-going major and medium project.

New Telephone connections in Kerala

1237. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections to be released in Kerala during the next financial year; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI